

**MPC Update**  
**July 2019**  
**Written by Robert Turner, MPC Chair**

Last week I attended an event on emerald ash borer management options hosted by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The Guild was a co-sponsor along with Vermont Land Trust and Vermont Coverts. EAB occurrence is recent here in the Northeast, but coming on strong, and the message was that foresters should weigh considerations beyond simply financial ones. Out of the 30+ folks in attendance, roughly half were Guild members. The discussion generated a range of perspectives, including those that felt obliged to capture as much value as possible from vulnerable trees. In speaking with the organizers afterwards, some hoped for more diversity, feeling they'd been speaking to the choir. I saw it differently: Guild members held the space in this gathering. Coming from decades of often feeling like we held a minority view when the questions about putting the forest first arose, this was one instance where it didn't feel that way.

Your MPC continues to make progress on student outreach with specific institutions being targeted for the rollout of our Student Chapter tool kit. On the policy front, we're digging deeply into an examination of alternative management options for plantation forestry. This year's MPC election is on our radar (Be thinking about nominees!), and we're pursuing some initiatives for next year's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!